

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Gorra in view of Neumann. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claims 1, 12 and 19, among others, have been amended to further clarify the types of data which are recorded and displayed according to the invention, and the manner by which this data may be updated. Each of claims 1, 12 and 19 recites structure directed to an apparatus for maintaining janitorial services information at a facility, including a time when said facility was last cleaned or serviced. In particular, the apparatus is adapted to *always* display, within view of patrons of the facility, a *fixed* time, namely, the time when the facility was last cleaned or serviced. The apparatus additionally provides for the display to be periodically updated with a new fixed time when a user, such as a facilities cleaner or servicing personnel, provides a user-input – i.e., substantially contemporaneous with when the facility is next cleaned or serviced.

Applicant submits that neither Gorra nor Neumann, whether taken alone or in combination, discloses the above-referenced features of claims 1, 12 and 19, as amended. Rather, Gorra only discloses the display of data related to the *users* of a hand-washing facility (and *not* the cleaning or servicing of the hand-washing *facility* itself), and it only discloses the display of this comparatively limited set of data *at selected times*, and only in response to a specific input which is to be received from an administrator, not by facilities cleaners or servicing personnel.

Similarly, Neumann does not disclose an apparatus that is adapted to be used by facilities cleaners or servicing personnel, nor one which provides a display which is viewable by patrons of the facility, nor does it disclose the recording of when the facility was last *cleaned* or serviced. Instead, the Neumann reference only discloses an apparatus that is used by a cleaning *supervisor* to record, among other things, the time and date when he performed a supervisory function – i.e., when he *checked on* the cleaning efforts of his service personnel. In contrast to the present invention, the Neumann reference discloses a method and system that displays the aforesaid supervisory data *only*

within view (i.e., on the handheld PDA, etc.) of the cleaning supervisor and his superiors. There is no suggestion or motivation to combine the cited references to arrive at applicant's claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that Gorra and Neumann do not teach or suggest, either individually or in combination, the features of claims 1, 12 and 19 as amended. Applicant further submits that claims 2-11, 13-18, and 20-23, as depending directly or indirectly from the independent claims, respectively, are also now directed to allowable subject matter.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance and earnestly and respectfully solicits an early Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920.

Respectfully submitted,

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